(c) whether the mode of promotion of JEs to TEs Group B has been changed from selection method to seniority-cum-suitability basis; if so, the date of effect of the same and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; Candidates approved for promotion to TEs Group 'B' during 1977 were 898 JEs.

(c) Yes, Sir; by amendment of Recruitment Rules in February, 1987 the method of promotion by way of Seniority-cum-fitness was introduced for promotion of JEs to TEs Group 'B' against 66-2/3 per cent quota. This has been done to enable senior JEs to get promotion easily.

Employees of IDPL and HAL working in the Ministry

2946. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3401 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of employees of IDPL and HAL are working in the Ministry and at the residence of certain bureaucrats of his Ministry,

(b) if so, what are the names of such employees, their designation and since when each one of them is working at these places;

(c) whether it is a fact that these employees do not attend any of the IDPL Offices and are not doing any work of IDPL;

(d) if so, what is the justification in making payment of emoluments to them; and

(e) what are the details of salaries and allowances paid to each of these employees during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The services of employees of IDPL and HAL are utilised occassionally for office work in the Ministry only as and when considered essential.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Tapping the private conversation of Parliamentarians

2947. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private conversation between Parliamentarians was tapped in Chandigarh as reported in the Sunday Observer of 23rd October, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Department of Telecommunications has neither taped nor has received any request from State Government/Central Government for extending technical facilities for interception of telephone calls in Chandigarh, between Parliamentarians.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New telephone connections

2948. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to provide new telephone connections in the country during August, September, and October last, if so, what was the number of new telephone connections provided during this period State-wise; and

(b) what was the number of electronic exchange lines commissioned during the above period and the number of proposed new connections during the current financial Year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of new telephone connections provided during August to September, 1988 State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(b) The total number of Electronic Exchange lines commissioned during August to September, 1988 are around 12,000 and the total number of new connections proposed to be provided during the current financial year are around 4 lakhs.

Statement

	Name of State/UT.	Telephone connection provided during Aug. 1988 to Oct. 1988
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3693
2.	Assam	500
3.	Bihar	1079
4.	Gujarat	2434
5.	Haryana	889
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	442
7.	Himachal Pradesh	464
8.	Karnataka	3202
9.	Kerala	2307
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2280
11.	Maharashtra	13850
12.	Arunachal Pradesh (NE)	104
13.	Manipur (NE)	126
14.	Meghalaya (NE)	41
15.	Nagaland (NE)	10
16.	Mizoram (NE)	8
17.	Tripura (NE)	80
18.	Orissa	1029
19.	Punjab	1877
20.	Rajasthan	1808
21.	Tamil Nadu	3500
22.	Uttar Pradesh	930
23.	West Bengal	1083
24.	Sikkim	10
25.	Goa	92
26.	Delhi (U.T)	3633